

Historic Preservation Meetings 1/16/20 & 1/22/20

Background

Two internal meetings were held with historic preservation staff. These meetings were held to review and discuss potential amendments to the sign standards that relate to the Historic Landmark Signs program and signs in historic preservation zones.

Key Points and Summary of Meetings:

1/16/20 – Meeting held to discuss the Historic Landmark Sign program

- Historic preservation staff suggested Historic Landmark Sign (HLS) program name be changed as there is confusion with using the words Historic and Landmark. These signs are not on the State or National Historic Register. Currently PRS reviews these signs and there are not specific historic criteria for review. Makes more sense for the Sign Design Review Committee to review the signs. Okay with review by SDRC if these signs are no longer called Historic Landmark Signs.
- Discussion was held regarding what the HLS program name should be changed to. Suggestions made include changing “Historic” to “Heritage” signs and including “city” or “local” in the sign designation.
- Suggestion that signs located in a designated historic district, located at a Historic Landmark Property or are historically designated should continue to be reviewed by Tucson Pima County Historic Commission.
- Discussion held regarding removal of language “at a location that is within the current Tucson City limits” from the definitions of Classic HLS, Transitional HLS, and Replica HLS. Historic preservation has no objection to the removal of this language as long as the signs are no longer called Historic Landmark Signs.

1/22/20 – Meeting held to discuss signs in historic preservation zones

- Discussion held regarding moving sign standards relating to signs in historic preservation zones to Article 5 of the Unified Development Code (UDC), to allow these sign standards to be located in only one location in the UDC. This will help to avoid confusion.
- Discussion held regarding size of signs in historic preservation zones. At a maximum signs in commercial zones may be 40 sq. ft, and signs in residential zones may be up to 8 sq. ft.
- Clarification that the size of the sign depends on the type of zone and must be proportional to the building.